### **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

August 12, 2008

President Harris called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. in the Committee Hearing Room 330, City Hall.

Role call.

Present: President Harris, Vice President Zanmiller, Commissioners Anfang, Kleindl and Rossbach.

Excused: Commissioner Carter III.

Commissioner Bostrom arrived during Item Number 5.

Lisa Veith, Board Attorney; John Blackstone, Jim Graupmann, Ruth O'Brien; Saint Paul Regional Water Services.

Consent Agenda Items Nos. 1 through 3 were moved for approval by Commissioner Anfang as follows:

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 2008.
- 2. Approval of the Financial Statements for the month of June 2008.
- 3. Claim Report for the period of January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

Approved.

Yeas - 5

Nays - 0

#### **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

4. 2008 Ramsey County Parks Department deer hunt in the Vadnais – Sucker Regional Park. (attachment)

Mr. Schneider explained that the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department have proposed to hold their annual deer hunt in the parks surrounding Sucker and Vadnais Lakes in the SPRWS supply system. Based on an aerial survey, the number of deer in the parks area is higher than recommended. There would be two hunts in the fall and the parks will be closed during the hunts. There is no action required on this issue.

Vice President Zanmiller asked if the meat was donated to the local food shelves following the hunt.

Mr. Schneider responded that he was not certain but believed that this was an option for the hunters. He indicated he would verify this and report his findings to the Board.

5. Zebra Mussel Report. (Written response from DNR attached.)

Mr. Schneider gave an overview of the recommended action plan as contained in Camp Dresser McKee report:

- Monitor and physically remove mussels from the Mississippi River Pump Station, the 60" conduits from that station and Charley Lake, the Pleasant Lake Gate House, the Vadnais Lake Intakes and the 90" conduits from Vadnais to McCarrons Water Treatment Plant. The use of protective coatings is an option at these facilities if they become necessary due to the presence of the mussels. The addition of a polymer is an option at the Vadnais Intakes if the number of mussels becomes excessive.
- The draining of the conduits for maintenance shall be accomplished by transferring the water to the adjacent conduit or properly disinfecting and/or filtering the water prior to draining.
- Discontinue the pumping operation from Sucker Lake to Snail Lake.
- Ensure that Vadnais Lake does not overflow to Twin Lake.
- Introduce water from Centerville and Otter Lakes only in the event of extreme emergencies.

Mr. Schneider stated that following this plan will ensure that operations can continue despite the presence of zebra mussels. It will also address the additional responsibility of preventing the spread of zebra mussels to other water bodies. SPRWS will continue to work with the Department of Natural Resources and other professional organizations to look for a long-term solution to prevent the introduction of other exotic species into SPRWS supply system.

Commissioner Rossbach stated his opinion that preventing the spread of zebra mussels and preventing the introduction of other exotic species into SPRWS supply system should be among the Board's top priorities when developing a plan of action.

Mr. Schneider indicated that staff recommends that aggressively addressing the known presence of zebra mussels in the supply system should be a top priority. He further indicated that SPRWS needs to continue to work with the DNR to develop a longer term solution to the whole invasive species issue once the short term maintenance issues have been dealt with.

Vice President Zanmiller asked about the status of legislation that would require that ballast water from ships be treated prior to discharging into the Great Lakes and other inland waters to prevent the spread of other exotic species.

Mr. Schneider indicated that he was aware of the legislation but was not aware of the current status and would find out and will forward his findings to the Board.

Mr. Schneider proposed that staff draft a Zebra Mussel Response Plan to be presented to the Board for discussion and action at the September meeting.

## 6. 2009 Budget. (no attachment)

Mr. Schneider offered the Board the opportunity to ask questions about the 2009 SPRWS Budget proposed at the July Board meeting. He indicated that there were no changes proposed at this time and that there is a Budget Workshop scheduled for 5:00 PM on August 26, 2008 at the McCarrons Center Administration building. This will be an opportunity for Board members to discuss the proposed 2009 budget with staff and ask any questions they may have.

Mr. Schneider also commented on the status of the 2008 budget. Water sales are behind projections and spending in the areas of chemicals, fuel and energy are above projections. Mid-year adjustments will be made to ensure revenues and spending balance for the year.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### 1. Voice Response Unit

Mr. Schneider reported the new voice response unit implemented in the spring has resulted in a higher percentage of calls being handled without interacting with our Customer Service Reps. This frees up some of their time to perform other duties.

# 2. Taste and odor complaints

Only four taste and odor complaints have been registered this year. The GAC filtration system is obviously performing well and staff is to be commended on the success of the project.

#### 3. 2009 Budget Workshop

The workshop will be held at 5:00 PM on Tuesday August 26, 2008 at McCarrons Center.

# 4 Habitat For Humanity

The 2008 Habitat for Humanity project was a success, with the City of Saint Paul staffing 5 days of volunteers with nearly 100 City employees participating. Employees used vacation leave to work for one day on the Habitat For Humanity house. They appreciated the T-shirts and lunches purchased by the Board.

# **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Performance Measures 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008. (attachment)
- B. Employee Injury Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008. (attachment)
- C. Vehicle Accident Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008. (attachment)
- D. Investment Portfolio 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008. (attachment)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Attest: